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Public Info: Humanities West www.humanitieswest.org
Tickets: City Box Office 415/392-4400
www.cityboxoffice.com

HUMANITIES WEST PRESENTS
The Roman Republic (509–27 BCE)
Friday & Saturday, October 24 & 25, 2014
Marines' Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA

Humanities West 2014-2015 Season continues with ***The Roman Republic (509–27 BCE)***, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and theatrical performances exploring the many facets of early Roman culture, from politics and religion to fine art and theater, that continue to inspire and influence our modern times. The program takes place on Friday, October 24, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, and Saturday, October 25, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Marines' Memorial Theatre, located at 609 Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco.

Tickets for ***The Roman Republic (509–27 BCE)***, are priced as follows: Single tickets for individual Friday programs are \$55 orchestra and \$45 balcony and individual Saturday programs are \$80 orchestra and \$55 balcony, single tickets for both days of each program are \$125 orchestra and \$80 balcony. Order direct from City Box Office 415-392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com

Season tickets may still be available and offer a significant savings. Check www.humanitieswest.org for details and complete program descriptions for the 2014-2015 Season. A new Flex series ticket - for a choice of any three program days on the 2014-2015 Season - is available for \$180 orchestra and \$115 balcony. Individual balcony tickets for teachers and students are available for \$25/day for any program. Free tickets are available in limited quantities for students age 25 or younger (inquire at info@humanitieswest.org).

Humanities West begins its two-day lecture series for the 2014-2015 season with a journey to ***The Roman Republic***. Designed to entertain and educate, this unique lecture/performance program brings together scholars from Stanford, Berkeley, Columbia, and the University of British Columbia, along with acclaimed Bay Area actors to explore politics, religion, fine art, literature, and theater, all among the many facets of early Roman culture that continue to fascinate us to this day. From its legendary origins as a tiny cluster of villages in the Italian countryside, ancient Rome grew into a vast metropolis and the dominant power of the Mediterranean. Leaders of the Roman Republic established a constitutional framework that embodied principles of separation of powers, checks and balances, and the rights and duties of citizenship. From its modeling of democratic values to its golden age of drama and its Greek- and Etruscan-inspired art, the great Roman Republic was a major turning point in western civilization.

Presented in collaboration with the Consul General of Italy in San Francisco, the Italian Cultural Institute, Mechanics' Institute, and the Leonardo daVinci Society in celebration of Italian culture in the United States.

On Friday evening, **Walter Scheidel** (Stanford) provides the opening lecture ***City-State, Republic, Empire: What was the Roman Republic Really Like?*** The Roman Republic was a bundle of contradictions. Scheidel will discuss the political, religious, and societal inconsistencies that were a part of this dynamic and complicated civilization.

Stanford Classics in Theatre (SCIT) follows with a theatrical approach to the Roman Republic with a performance of an original translation and adaptation of Titus Maccius Plautus' ***Casina***. First performed in the 2nd century BCE, *Casina* is Plautus at his lewd and lyrical best – a classical farce of thwarted lust and scheming wives, with a dose of transvestitism thrown in for good measure! Updated for a modern audience with music, costumes and dance, SCIT offers a new take on Roman comedy's classic plots, stock characters, and surprisingly racy jokes.

On Saturday, **Lisa Pieraccini** (UC Berkeley) presents ***Art of the Roman Republic***. This illustrated lecture will explore iconic works of Roman art from 500 BCE to the end of the 1st century BCE, illuminating artistic motifs, subjects and styles used to express Roman culture, ideology and identity.

Dan-el Padilla Peralta (Stanford and Columbia) follows with a presentation, on ***The Religious Republic: How Did Romans Worship Their Gods?*** Padilla Peralta traces the historical development of the Roman divine pantheon and discusses the modes of ritual observance and religious rites that Romans performed to honor their gods and to ascertain the gods' will.

The program continues with ***Cicero: Eloquence Personified Then and Now*** by **Christopher Krebs** (Stanford). Roman politician and orator Marcus Tullius Cicero employed rhetorical rules that are still used by modern speechmakers. This talk will examine excerpts from speeches by Presidents Obama and Clinton, and by Pericles, Cicero, and Tacitus, with an eye to their enactments of specific rhetorical rules—formulated in ancient times and followed to this day.

The two-day program culminates with a talk about the great poetic achievements of Virgil and a special performance of Virgil's First Eclogue. ***Virgil Through the Looking Glass***, a lecture by **Susanna Braund** (University of British Columbia), examines Virgil's poems--his pastoral laments and celebrations (*Eclogues*), his meditation on humans' relationship to the land (*Georgics*), and his foundation epic for the Roman people (*Aeneid*) and how these magical poems have retained their appeal for more than two thousand years. Following Braund's talk is ***Virgil's First Eclogue in Performance***, featuring acclaimed Bay Area Actors **James Carpenter** and **Julian Lopez-Morillas**. Virgil's First Eclogue is a 100-line dialogue between two herdsmen whose lives have been affected in opposite ways by the civil wars that ravaged Italy at the end of the Republic. They will also perform a dramatized reading of Seamus Heaney's *Glanmore Eclogue*.

A panel discussion with the presenters will follow, addressing questions from the audience.

*Ancillary programs providing opportunities to learn more about the featured topic and related issues complement this two-day event. For a complete program schedule and additional information about the presenters please visit www.humanitieswest.org

Humanities West, a non-profit serving the Bay Area since 1983, is devoted to exploring history to celebrate the mind and the arts. The only independent non-profit offering humanities and arts programs of this scale, Humanities West presents a diverse series of lectures and performances encompassing fine and performing arts, social history, music, politics, and philosophy of the arts. These multidisciplinary programs are designed to entertain and educate audiences and to illuminate and elevate the human spirit through exploration of the many sources of modern

culture.

CALENDAR LISTING: EVENTS/LECTURES/ARTS & CULTURE

WHAT: *The Roman Republic (509–27 BCE)*

Humanities West presents *The Roman Republic (509–27 BCE)*, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and theatrical performances bringing together scholars from Stanford, Berkeley, Columbia, and the University of British Columbia, along with acclaimed Bay Area actors to explore politics, religion, fine art, literature, and theater, all among the many facets of early Roman culture that continue to inspire and influence modern times.

**WHEN: 7:30pm to 9:30pm, Friday, October 24, 2014
10am to 4pm, Saturday, October 25, 2014**

**WHERE: Marines' Memorial Theatre
609 Sutter Street, San Francisco**

TICKETS: \$25 - \$80
Tickets are available through City Box Office at
415-392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com
Group tickets: info@humanitieswest.org

PUBLIC INFO: 415/391-9700 or www.humanitieswest.org

RELATED EVENTS for *The Roman Republic (509–27 BCE)

MONA LISA: A Life Discovered - Reading & Discussion with Author Dianne Hales

Join award-winning author Dianne Hales for a reading and discussion of her latest book *MONA LISA: A Life Discovered*, as she reveals the woman behind the iconic smile. Every year, some 9 million visitors to the Louvre make their way into a gallery to view one small portrait—the Mona Lisa. In spite of its international fame, the life and times of the portrait's subject remained a mystery—until now. When new findings identified Leonardo's model as Lisa Gherardini del Giocondo, Hales was intrigued and set out to reconstruct Lisa's life, taking readers along for her journey through Italy, to archives and libraries, piazze and palazzi, abandoned chapels, and fairytale castles. The result of her extensive research is an intriguing blend of biography, history, and memoir that takes readers beyond the frame of Leonardo's masterpiece and introduces them to who Lisa was and how she lived in the time of Florence's golden age. *MONA LISA: A Life Discovered* is a beautifully drawn portrait of the woman behind the unforgettable face.

When: 6:00pm, Thursday, September 18, 2014

Where: Mechanics' Institute
57 Post Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$15

RSVP: 415-393-0100

Humanities West Book Discussion with Lynn Harris

Livy's The Dawn of the Roman Empire: Books 31-40 (Oxford World Classics)

Editor: W. Heckel Translator: J.L. Yardly

When: 5:30pm, Wednesday, October 9, 2014

Where: Board Room, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
595 Market Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$5

RSVP: commonwealthclub.org

Co-Sponsored by the Humanities Member-Led Forum

Lecture: Emperor Augustus: a Force for Civilization, with Dryden Liddle

Monday Night Philosophy Club at the Commonwealth Club remembers Emperor Augustus, who died 2,000 years ago on August 19, 14 CE. This gifted and successful politician seized power ruthlessly and yet was declared the savior of the Roman Republic even as he was abolishing it. He ruled as an autocrat but maintained the fiction that he was no more than the Republic's First Citizen. His 40-year reign was Rome's Golden Age, when a new imperial government inspired institutions to be established, and art, architecture and literature to flourish, creating a prosperous civilization that lasted centuries.

Presented in association with the Humanities Member-led Forum of the Commonwealth Club.

When: 6:00pm, Monday, October 13, 2014

Where: Board Room, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
595 Market Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$20

RSVP: commonwealthclub.org or 415-597-6700

Fireside Chat with George Hammond – The Roman Republic Preview

Join Humanities West board member George Hammond for a preview of the two-day lecture/performance series ***The Roman Republic (509-27 BCE)***

When: 6:30pm, Tuesday, October 21, 2014

Where: Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA

Cost: Free

Lecture: The Roman Republic: Significance for Western Civilization with Carlos Norena

Join Carlos Norena, Professor of History at UC Berkeley for a talk on the Roman Republic and its significance for Western Civilization. Sponsored by the Leonardo da Vinci Society.

When: 7pm, Thursday, October 30, 2014

Where: Museo Italo Americano at Fort Mason Center

Cost: \$10 suggested donation

RSVP: events@davincisanfrancisco.com

Humanities West Book Discussion with Lynn Harris

A Most Dangerous Book. Tacitus's Germania from the Roman Empire to the Third Reich
by Christopher Krebs

When: 5:30pm, Wednesday, November 5, 2014

Where: Board Room, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
595 Market Street, SF, CA

Cost: \$5

RSVP: commonwealthclub.org

Co-Sponsored by the Humanities Member-Led Forum